

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 09872 041115Z  
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-06 SP-02 PM-03  
NSC-05 L-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-10  
/061 W

-----099254 050312Z /64

R 040940Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2588  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9872

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, CH, UR, US  
SUBJECT: RUSSIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS

1. I WAS SOLEMNLY TAKEN INTO A CORNER AT A RECEPTION  
LAST NIGHT BY RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR BORIS ILYICHEV WHO  
SAID THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS AND WISHED  
TO BRING TO MY ATTENTION A SITUATION OF EXTREME GRAVITY.  
THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE RISK OF WORLD WAR III WAS  
VERY GREAT AND THAT THE U.S. SHOULD EXERCISE GREAT  
PRUDENCE IN CONSIDERING ITS POLICIES TOWARD HIS COUNTRY  
AND TOWARD CHINA. THE PRC WAS BELLICOSE AND HAD  
EMBARDED ON A DANGEROUS COURSE.

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2. I ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS SOME NEW DEVELOPMENT  
OF WHICH I WAS UNAWARE WHICH LED ILYICHEV TO THESE  
SOMBER CONCLUSIONS. HE REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT  
SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND THAT THESE WERE HIS GOVERN-  
MENT'S VIEWS. CHINA WAS INCREASING THE SIZE OF ITS  
ARSENAL AND WAS MODERNIZING ITS WEAPONS. THE SOVIET  
UNION KNEW THE CHINESE LEADERS INDIVIDUALLY VERY

WELL AND WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THEIR OUTLOOK.

3. I HAZARDED THE THOUGHT THAT WITH THE CURRENT VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK TO PEKING, ONE COULD POSTULATE THAT CHINA WAS PURSUING A COURSE NOT UNLIKE THE ONE IT FOLLOWED IN THE FIFTIES AT THE TIME OF BANDUNG. ILYICHEV SAID THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, OR INDEED IN ANGOLA OR MOZAMBIQUE OR ELSEWHERE, WERE OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE. GREAT POWER RELATIONS WERE WHAT COUNTED. THE SOVIET UNION WISHED TO CONCLUDE A SALT AGREEMENT AND BE AMERICA'S ALLY. AMERICA WAS FAR AWAY FROM CHINA BUT RUSSIA WAS CLOSE AND RECOGNIZED THAT CHINA COULD QTE DO A PEARL HARBOR UNQTE AT ANY TIME. IN CLOSING, AMBASSADOR ILYICHEV REPEATED THAT THIS WAS A QUESTION OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE.

4. COMMENT. I HAVE KNOWN BORIS ILYICHEV FOR THREE YEARS AND WE ARE ON A JOCULAR FIRST NAME BASIS. THE FACT THAT HE SHOULD TAKE ME ASIDE SO CONSPICUOUSLY AND HARANGUE ME IN A PERFECTLY FRIENDLY BUT DESPERATELY SERIOUS MANNER WAS SURPRISING. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW WHETHER BORIS' ACTIONS HERE ARE BEING REPEATED IN MANY CAPITALS. WE ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN THAI/PRC RELATIONS  
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MAY BE RESULTING IN SPECIAL PRESSURE BEING PUT BY MOSCOW ON ITS EMBASSY HERE.  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** RUSSIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PEPR, CH, UR, US, (ILYICHEV, BORIS)  
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